Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-04 AID-05 IO-13 OES-06 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 031236Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2319

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DEPARTMENT PASS HEW, AID

1. DURING COURSE OF MEETING (REPORTED SEPTEL) WITH SCIATT AND USAID HEALTH AND POPULATION OFFICER, DR. SHUTT, MINISTER OF HEALTH BADRAN STATED HIS VIEWS AT SOME LENGTH ON PROJECT HOPE ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT. HE IS UNHAPPY WITH OVERALL OPERATION.

2. MOH IS UNHAPPY ABOUT SMALL NUMBER OF GOE NOMINEES PROCESSED IN 1976 UNDER HEW SUPPORTED VISITING SCIENTIST AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM. THREE OUT OF TWENTY-THREE NOMINEES WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN PROCESSED.

3. BADRAN'S VIEW IS THAT PROJECT HOPE VISITING SCIENTIST AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IS GOVERNED BU U.S./EGYPT HEALTH AGREEMENT AND BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PLAY ACTIVE ROLE. HE DOES NOT FEEL THAT HOPE, AS PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION, SHOULD HAVE TOO LARGE A MEASURE OF AUTONOMY. HE DOES NOT OBJECT TO USE OF PROJECT HOPE AS PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT, BUT WANTS IMPROVED PERFORMANCE INSURED. MOH WOULD CONSIDER SCRAPPING ARRANGEMENT THROUGH HOPE AND DIRECTING ALL FUTURE REQUESTS TO AID FOR PROCESSING UNDER PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAM.

4. BADRAN FEELS THAT PROJECT HOPE VOLUNTARY PROGRAM IS SPREAD
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TOO THIN WITH INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS IN VARIOUS SPECIALTIES SPREAD AROUND SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS. HE SAYS THERE HAVE BEEN PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS ALSO, WITH UNIVERSITY ADVISORS ARRIVING DURING SUMMER VACATIONS, ETC. HE WOULD PREFER HOPE CONCENTRATING EFFORTS ON MORE LIMITED HEALTH SECTORS AND/OR INSTITUTIONS.

5. COMMENT: RESPECTING PROPOSED AGREEMENT, MOH CLEARLY

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IS STICKING TO VIEW THAT HEW RETAIN OVERALL POLICY RESPONSIBILITY AND OVERSEE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TO SOME DEGREE AS WELL. THIS ARISES FROM MOH FEELING THAT HOPE HAS NOT EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED VISITING SCIENTIST AND TRAINING PROGRAM DURING PAST YEAR, AND FROM VIEW THAT THIS PROGRAM IS COMPONENT OF HEALTH AGREMENT ADMINISTERED BY HEW AND MOH. ORIGIN OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT HOPE VOLUNTARY PROGRAM LESS CLEAR, BUT PROBABLY INCLUDE MOH DESIRE TO HAVE INPUT IN MORE HEALTH PROGRAMS IN EGYPT (E.G., UNIVERSITIES). RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, MOH AND MINISTER PERSONALLY HAVE CRITICIZED HOPE IN SEVERAL RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY AID OFFICERS. END COMMENT.

6. BADRAN WAS TOLD THAT USG WAS INVOLVED THROUGH HEW FUNDING ONLY IN VISITING SCIENTIST/TRAINING PROGRAM AND HAD NO RELATION TO HOPE'S VOLUNTARY PROGRAM. WE SUGGESTED THAT HE MEET PERSONALLY WITH HOPE EGYPT DIRECTOR DR. BENNETT TO TRY TO IRON OUT PROBLEMS. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT SOME ASPECTS OF PROBLEMS IN MOVING EGYPTIAN NOMINEES, LIKE ECFMG AND FINAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S. RECIPIENT INSTITUTIONS DO NOT REST WITH HOPE EGYPT STAFF. BADRAN CONCEDED THAT THERE COULD ALSO BE PROBLEMS ON EGYPTIAN SIDE. USAID, WHILE WILLING TO CONSIDER ALL NORMAL REQUESTS FOR TRAINING, DOES NOT ENCOURAGE SWITCHING NOMINEES FROM HOPE PROGRAM. TO DO SO PRIOR TO BADRAN AND BENNETT DISCUSSING WILL NOT BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MOH AND PROJECT HOPE. USAID REP SAID USAID WOULD FUND THESE TRAINEES IF REQUESTED TO DO SO BY THE MINISTER AFTER MINISTER'S DISCUSSION WITH BENNETT.

7. PROJECT HOPE HERE WILLING TO WORK WITH MOH TO DEVELOP BETTER
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COORDINATION AND PLANNING. BENNETT NOTES THAT SOME PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY GOE LATENESS IN MAKING NOMINATIONS AND LACK OF TIMELY FOLLOW UP. HE WISHES TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM WITH BADRAN.
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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